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# Folk medicine and horticulture

Aquaculture Department, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

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STEP 1  
PRELIMINARY  
ISOLATION  
Drug suggested by  
analogy or  
general screening  
program

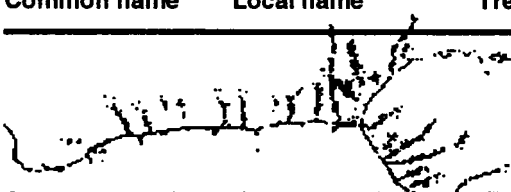



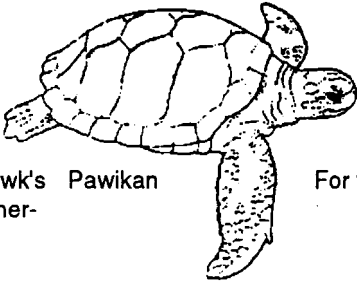
## Folk medicine and horticulture

Marine organisms are used in folk medicine by coastal people of northern Mindanao and the Visayan islands of Bohol, Cebu and Negros in central Philippines. Of particular interest are concoctions used to treat malaria, bleeding, fertility problems, and worm infection (table below lists those related to aquaculture). There could be truly effective drugs from marine organisms.

Sea urchins contain bioactive substances. Mangroves contain tannins, phenolic compounds that exhibit antimicrobial activity. Seaweeds contain phenols and terpenoidal compounds.

In horticulture and agriculture, Filipino coastal dwellers have used brown seaweeds as soil ameliorant and growth enhancer. Studies point out that seaweed extracts contain plant growth-promoting substances. These are now exploited commercially. Other studies indicate the possible use of seaweeds directly as fertilizer. In northern Cebu, starfish is used as coconut fertilizer; it reportedly induces blooming and produces healthier trees. Studies has also been made on the use of sea urchins and seaweeds as vermifuge.

Common name	Local name	Treatment or use
		
Green seaweed	Lato, ar-arucip	For treatment of rheumatism. Seaweed is boiled and its soup drunk. For treating or preventing goiter. Seaweed is eaten raw or prepared as salad.
Green seaweed	Lukay-lukay	For treatment or prevention of goiter or <i>bugon</i> and colds. Seaweed is eaten raw or prepared as salad.
Brown seaweed	Boto-boto, lusay-lusay, aragan	For treatment of goiter and other glandular troubles. Seaweed is boiled, the soup drunk. Young shoots may be added to <i>paksiw</i> dishes (recipes consisting of fish cooked in vinegar, ginger, garlic and salt).
Brown seaweed	Samo, aragan	Dried seaweeds are burned with or without small pieces of rubber to drive away insects particularly those that infect rice fields. Dried seaweeds may also be hung on trees -- like the <i>upo</i> or <i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> and the <i>langka</i> or jackfruit <i>Artocarpus integrifolia</i> -- that are infested with worms. Seaweeds are believed to drive away the insects. These may also be mixed with soil as conditioner or with rice bran as hog feed.
Red seaweed	Gulaman	For treatment of stomach disorders; also used as laxative. Decoction is prepared and drunk.
Red seaweed	Guso, tamsao, cottonii	Decoction is used as foliar spray to enhance flowering and crop growth.

Common name	Local name	Treatment or use
		
Giant clam	Taklobo	For malaria; the meat is eaten raw or boiled.
Black sea urchin	Tuyom, salunggo, tayong-tayong	As pig vermifuge. The fluid inside the urchin test and the aristotle's lantern is used.
Sea urchin		As purgative for man and pigs. Sea urchin is chopped or pounded, boiled, and the soup is drunk.
Sea cucumber	Bahay-bahay, balat	For errant husbands. The sea cucumber is dried, then, placed in the trousers (inside pockets or seams) of the husband. Believed to cause impotence.
Grouper	Lapu-lapu, lig-lig	For faster healing of wounds of women who gave birth. Blood from the tail of the fish is extracted and drunk.
Rabbitfish	Danggit, samaral	For treatment of wound caused by fish spines. Fish liver is applied on the wound.
		
Green turtle, hawk's bill turtle, leather-back turtle	Pawikan	For treatment of asthma. The flesh is cooked <i>adobo</i> -style (with vinegar, soy sauce, garlic, laurel leaves, pepper corn and salt) and eaten. The flesh may be broiled slightly burned, placed in water, and the soup drunk. As aphrodisiac. The turtle eggs are believed to stimulate sexual drive.
Crocodile	Buaya	For sexual potency. The sexual organ is cooked and eaten.
Mangrove	Pagatpat, miyapi	For stomach aches. The bark is boiled and the extract drunk or used to wash wounds. Tannins from boiled mangrove is considered an omnipotent medicine. Used as antiseptic.
Seawater	Tubig sa baybay o dagat	Used for faster healing of wounds. During summer in eastern Visayas, newly circumcised boys ages 7 -10 bathe in the sea to heal their wounds faster. For treatment of partial paralysis caused by stings of poisonous sea urchins or fishes. Hot seawater is applied on the wound, or the area is immersed in hot seawater.
Hot mud from ponds and mangrove areas		Used for faster healing of wounds and sores. Hot mud is applied on wounds and sores.
White sand from the sea		For treatment of wounds caused by thorns of marine animals. Sand is chewed and applied externally to the wound.
Oysters	Sisi, talaba	Shells are ground and applied to plants as fertilizers or soil ameliorant. Ground shells are mixed with grain for use as feeds for fowls.
Washing of fish (blood and scales)		Applied to ornamental plants to enhance growth and blooming.

References: (1) **Research Gems**. UP Diliman, 1991. UP, Diliman, Quezon City. (2) PM Aliño, GJB Cajipe, ET Ganzon-Fortes, WRY Licuanan, NE Montaña, and LM Tupas. *Some traditional medicinal and horticultural uses of marine organisms*. **SICEN Leaflet 1**.